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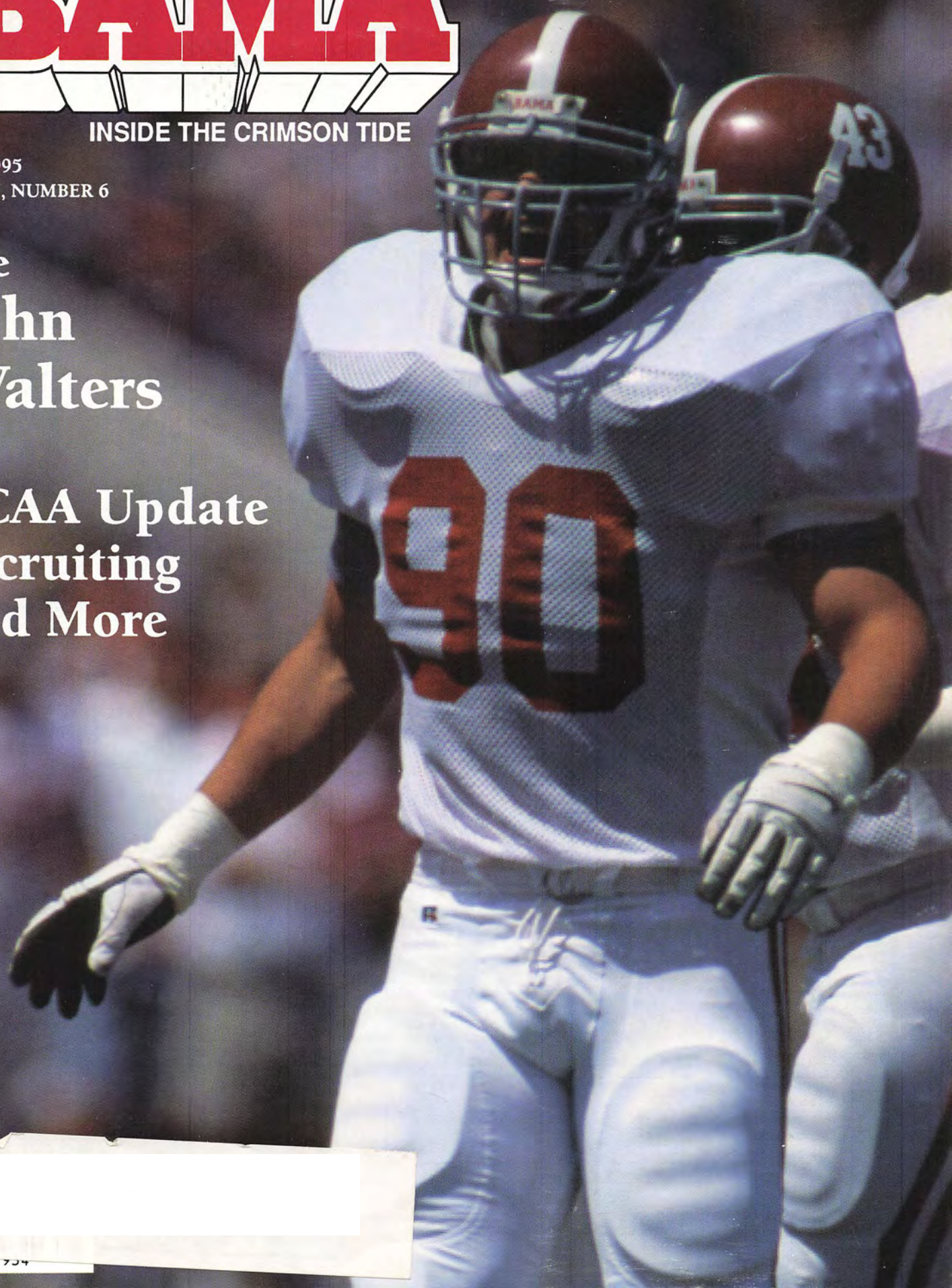
AUGUST, 1995
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 6

Inside

• John
Walters

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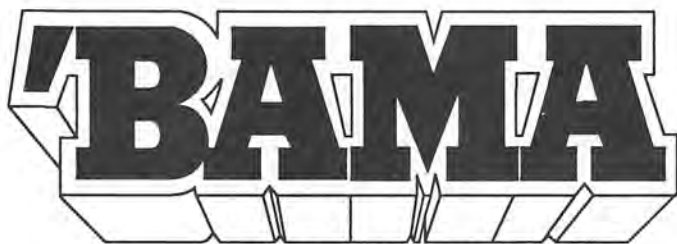
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

AUGUST, 1995

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 6

On the cover: John Walters has been a good football player for Alabama the past three years. The senior middle linebacker looks for a very good 1995 season for the Crimson Tide. See Page 16.

Barry Fikes Photo

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NCAA Delay Overshadows All

by Kirk McNair

Summer news often bad,
and severe injury to
Kareem McNeal is worst

The NCAA Infractions Committee does not meet each day in Kansas City (or anywhere else). It is made up of individuals at universities throughout the nation, individuals with important non-NCAA duties. As such, it moves more slowly than might be expected. Especially if one is expecting something.

Almost two months ago, when Alabama officials made the trek to Kansas City for a face-to-face meeting with the committee, everyone believed that the fate of the Crimson Tide football program would now be known. However, in mid-July it was announced that Alabama would not know the determination of the committee until at least August 1.

To review: There is no dispute about the facts of the case. The long investigation revealed two violations: an improper loan made to Gene Jelks (improper because it was more than the cost of the insurance he had reportedly borrowed money to buy and improper because Alabama did not have on file all of the documentation about the loan and the insurance) and the ineligibility of Antonio Langham for 10 games of the 1993 season. In NCAA nomenclature, these are major violations. However, in fact they are relatively minor transgressions which, if handled properly and promptly by Alabama officials, would likely have been dealt with in a matter of hours or days rather than years.

Athletics Director Cecil Ingram and Faculty Chairman of Athletics Dr. Tom Jones were reprimanded by President Dr. Roger Sayers. However, the two (and Dr. Gary White, then associate athletics director for compliance, and Head Coach Gene Stallings, who received a letter of admonishment), were guilty of sins of omission, not of some cover-up.

Prior to the involvement of the Infractions Committee, Alabama and the NCAA Investigative Staff, with some input from the independent counsel that is charging the athletics department in excess of \$200,000, came to an agreement on the facts of the case and worked out penalties that are consistent with NCAA precedent. The plan was for the case to be adjudicated through Summary Disposition. Although the Infractions Committee must approve the self-imposed penalty, no one expected that



Kareem McNeal

to be anything more than a rubber stamp. Obviously, the Infractions Committee did not see that as its role.

It's not to say that the Infractions Committee will not accept Alabama's self-imposed penalty. That penalty, in addition to the letters and some new monitoring procedures in the athletics department, includes a year of probation (without sanctions, but Alabama's first ever probation nevertheless) and the loss of football scholarships. It is usually reported that Alabama lost four scholarships, because Bama was within 18 scholarships of reaching the overall limit of 85 scholarshiped football players. Thus, Bama signed only 14 players in February. However, that was actually a penalty of 11 scholarships since a school may sign 25 players a year, then worry about the overall limit (which must be achieved by the beginning of fall practice) later.

Alabama has absolute proof on its side that The University had made a deal because Alabama signed only 14 players before the case went to the Infractions Committee.

There have been a number of guesses as to what the Infractions Committee might do.

- Accept the Summary Disposition recommendations.

- Accept it with slight modifications (best bet).

- Add to the penalty substantially by forfeiture of games in which Langham played, a further reduction in football scholarships, post-season sanctions, and/or a television ban. (The television ban would not be consistent with NCAA by-laws, but the Infractions Committee is not necessarily held to the intent of the NCAA membership.)

When the letter finally comes, that will

not necessarily be the end of the matter. If the Infractions Committee does not accept the Summary Disposition, there is an appeals process within the NCAA. And since Alabama obviously believed it had a deal and kept its end of the bargain, it is not out of the question that The University take its case to court.

Former Alabama Coach Bill Curry once said, "Losing a football game is not a tragedy. An airplane crash is a tragedy." For returning Alabama starting offensive tackle Kareem McNeal, a summer automobile accident is a tragedy.

Although all details of McNeal's injury have not been released at the request of the family, it is a certainty that he will not play football. It was revealed that he suffered a spinal injury.

McNeal was injured when he was thrown from a car in which he was a passenger in an accident near his hometown of Tuskegee in early July. He was taken to Carraway Medical Center in Birmingham where he was in critical condition and placed on a ventilator because of bruised lungs. He was soon off the ventilator and his condition upgraded to stable, although he remained in the neurosurgical intensive care unit. He underwent back surgery, which was described as successful, and was removed from the intensive care unit. He was expected to begin rehabilitation about mid-July.

McNeal, an Academic All-Southeastern Conference performer, started all 11 games at right tackle last season, then moved to left tackle in the spring, where he was number one on the depth chart.

Crimson Tide freshmen, the 13 new scholarshiped players and a handful of invited walk-ons, will report to campus Sunday, August 6. The group will have three days of practice in shorts beginning August 7. Returning varsity players report August 9 and begin practice August 10. The team will go into full gear on Tuesday, August 15. All practices will be two-a-days through August 22. Classes begin August 23.

On the academic front, all of the signees are eligible. And it is believed that all returning players are also academically eligible. There have been no accurate reports of any current Tiders electing to give up football or to transfer (although there was an erroneous talk radio report that quarterback/holder Lance Tucker of Fayette had transferred to Mississippi State).

Three Tide players missed part of spring training because of off-the-field incidents. Defensive tackle Matt Parker had been charged with obstruction of a law enforcement officer in connection with tight end Patrick Hape being arrested for driving while

intoxicated. The charge against Parker was later dropped. Hape's case was handled as a juvenile offender and so the records are not public. Also charged with driving while intoxicated was wide receiver Rhondi Gibson.

Another player, running back Dennis Riddle, had been charged in connection with a break-in of an automobile, an incident that occurred before he came to Alabama. His case was also juvenile status, sealing the records.

All are listed in Alabama's 1995 Football Media Guide. (Incidentally, that publication is available by mail for \$15 with a check payable to University of Alabama and mailed to Football Media Guide, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Three of the incoming freshmen entered Alabama in summer school and began working out with returning players. The three freshmen are lineman Jason McDonald and defensive backs Fernando Bryant and Thomas Hill.

Most of the returning players returned for the second semester of summer school and a fairly large number were in Tuscaloosa throughout the summer working out. Quarterback Brian Burgdorf, who is up to about 212 pounds, has drawn rave reviews from those who have seen some of the workouts.

Among the most critical summer workouts are those conducted by Athletics

Trainer Bill McDonald and his staff. Of particular interest is the rehabilitation of center John Causey, who suffered a serious knee injury in last year's Citrus Bowl win over Ohio State. McDonald was cautiously optimistic, saying that Causey "is improving and we anticipate his participation when practice begins. He has begun doing sports-specific activities." Sports-specific means being in a football position, not just running or lifting weights or doing exercises.

Two others are also expected to be full speed for opening drills, defensive end Elverett Brown (recovering from ankle surgery) and wide receiver Calvin Hall (recovering from foot surgery after a fracture). McDonald is less sure about the status of offensive lineman Josh Swords, who also had an ankle injury, and wide receiver Blair Canale, who is recovering from knee surgery and an abdominal strain.

Defensive end Darrell Blackburn, who missed the A-Day Game with what was described as a virus, was later determined to have a serious kidney ailment. Although Blackburn has said that he has been medically cleared to play football this year, he may have a limited role, such as just being used as a rusher in passing situations.

Alabama reportedly has a transfer offensive lineman coming in this fall, but he won't be eligible to play until 1996. Brenon Meadow (6-3, 285), who prepped at Birmingham

Berry, was a starting offensive guard at Louisville. He will practice this fall and next spring, then have two years of eligibility.

One Alabama game has been selected for television on the regional Southeastern Conference J-P Network. Bama and Arkansas will kickoff at 11:30 a.m. CDT on Saturday, September 16.

There will certainly be other Bama games televised this fall on either national or regional network (ABC), national cable (ESPN) or the SEC/J-P regional game.

There has been talk that ABC thinks it missed out on a great game last year when Alabama hosted Georgia, and that the network wants to have the re-match in Athens this year, probably at noon EDT (11 a.m. central).

Tennessee and Auburn are also considered likely network games. (The Auburn game has been penciled in for a 2:30 CST kickoff on ABC.) A shocker would be the North Carolina State game being televised. That's Alabama's homecoming game and The University will not change the game time, which is 2:30. However, ABC does have a 2:30 starting time and has expressed some interest in the game.

How the season develops will determine the television fate of other games, but LSU and Mississippi State are certainly possibilities. Ole Miss is not a possibility because

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the Rebels are on NCAA probation. It would be possible to televise the Mississippi game back to campus, as the Auburn game was done two years ago when Auburn was on probation, but any discussion of that possibility is probably in the very early stages.

Games not televised (Vanderbilt, Southern Miss and North Texas are nearly certain not to be televised) will probably be available on Alabama's Pay-Per-View basis on cable systems in the state of Alabama and to out-of-state alumni groups.

The decision on expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium is not final, but it's close. The University will expand the stadium by about 10,000 seats (including some skyboxes) in the first phase of expansion. The first expansion will cost about \$15 million and will come at the North end zone. The original plan was for the first expansion to be in the South end zone, which would have involved moving a fire station and a small house The University uses for special events.

The West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, which is anxious to have the expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium to some 80,000 seats so that all Alabama games will be played in Tuscaloosa, convinced the City of Tuscaloosa to pledge \$4 million to the project. The Chamber had hoped to get an additional \$1 million or so from Tuscaloosa County and the City

of Northport, but came up about a half million short. However, that won't be a deterrent to the project.

Later expansions of the South end zone and the East sidelines should put Bryant-Denny Stadium at around the 100,000 mark early in the next century. (All expenses to The University will be paid for by athletics department revenue.)

If The University is able to get the go-ahead for the first expansion this summer, the addition should be completed prior to the 1997 season.

Alabama is contracted through 2001 to play three games per year (including the Tennessee and Auburn games when they are Bama's home games) in Birmingham's Legion Field.

In 1950 the Associated Press had its first pre-season football poll. In those 45 years the pre-season national champion has failed to win the crown 82.2 per cent of the time. Only eight pre-season number one teams have earned a national title in the same year (including Alabama in 1978). Alabama was the pre-season favorite one other year, 1966, but finished third despite being the nation's only 11-0 team.

In the final AP rankings since 1950, Oklahoma (which was the favorite eight times) and Alabama have six titles each, the most of any school. In addition to 1966 and 1978, the years in which Alabama won the national championship and where

the Tide was rated in the pre-season poll: 1961 third, 1964 sixth, 1965 fifth, 1979 second and 1992 ninth.

Although the AP poll has not yet been announced, plenty of other pre-season polls are out. Although we don't buy any of the pre-season publications, a few cross our desk and we see a few others. Nationally, Alabama

is being picked in the bottom half of the top 10 to about 15. Florida State is the usual choice to take the national title.

In SEC competition, Auburn is being picked to win the West Division by about a two to one margin over Bama.

Tide placekicker Michael Proctor is making most of the All-America teams.



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Alabama Has Long List Of Stars

by Kirk McNair

This will be an important year for Crimson Tide recruiters and state has top prospects

This will be a very important recruiting year for Alabama football because the Crimson Tide signed just 14 players last year. Fortunately, it appears to be a very good year in the state of Alabama for top high school prospects.

Although Alabama ordinarily recruits the best athletes regardless of position, it would not be unreasonable to expect Bama to go after one quarterback, one fullback, one or two tailbacks, two wide receivers, one tight end, six offensive linemen, six defensive linemen, two linebackers and two defensive backs. That would be 22 or 23 players.

There is also the distinct possibility that Alabama will look to the junior college ranks to fill some of its needs.

Ironically, Alabama has already "lost" one prospect, one that only the most astute recruiting follower would have been likely to know about. Marcus Perez, a defensive end from Medina, Ohio, announced in late June he had picked Ohio State over Alabama. The 6-4, 250-pounder is considered the top defensive lineman in Ohio.

Closer to home, *The Birmingham News* recently announced its Super Seniors. Although some will disagree with the newspaper's top 12, the top prospects are probably contained in *The News'* top 24 picks. *The News* made Gorman Thornton, 6-4, 345, tight end from Montgomery Jeff Davis, the top pre-season prospect in Alabama. He's the brother of former Alabama tackle George Thornton.

The rest of the top 12 were: Quarterback Tamaurice Martin, 6-3, 212, Mobile Williamson; linebacker Kenny Smith, 6-6, 245, North Jackson; defensive back Shawn McCorkel, 6-0, 175, Dothan Northview; quarterback Brad Knight, 6-3, 210, Millbrook Stanhope Elmore; defensive back Tim Bowens, 6-2, 196, Brooks of Killen; offensive tackle Colin Sears, 6-4, 280, Russellville; offensive tackle Matt Brennan, 6-5, 259, Mobile UMS-Wright; quarterback Eric Chappell, 6-5, 225, Montgomery Carver; defensive tackle Cole Cubelic, 6-4,

265, Homewood; defensive back Rodney Crayton, 5-9, 165, Dadeville; and wide receiver David Hill, 6-3, 188, Eufaula.

Each of those in the top 12 listed Alabama as one of the schools he is considering and Bama was the only school on the lists of all 12.

Some of those on the second 12 will make the top lists of some other publications. They are:

Defensive lineman Ezell Powell (Bama's Ozell's cousin), 6-4, 250, Georgiana; tight end Joey Duplan, 6-5, 240, Mobile Murphy; offensive lineman Kelvis White (Bama's

Laron's brother), 6-4, 243, Courtland; fullback/linebacker Lenardo Carson, 6-3, 257, Mobile Shaw; offensive lineman Seneca Knight, 6-5, 270, Benjamin Russell of Alexander City; quarterback Tellie Embery, 6-1, 200, Sylacauga B.B. Comer; wide receiver Denison Robinson, 6-1, 170, Mobile Murphy; wide receiver/defensive back Richmond Flowers, 6-0, 175, Birmingham Vestavia Hills (who has already committed to Duke); quarterback Ramon Posey, 5-8, 165, Birmingham Woodlawn; running back Terrance Parrish, 5-10, 180, Theodore; linebacker James Pitts, 6-1, 245, Phenix City

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Central; and running back Chris Cowels, 5-11, 205, Smiths Station.

Some other high school players in Alabama didn't make *The News*' top 24 list, but they are definitely on the lists of college recruiters. They include:

Defensive back Mondale Bates, Leighton Colbert County; tight end/linebacker Fred Bishop, Tuscaloosa Central; wide receiver Rodregis Brooks, Dadeville; lineman Jason Burks, Hartselle; defensive back Jamero Callins, Birmingham Phillips; linebacker Quenton Caver, Anniston; lineman Michael Childress, Guntersville; defensive back Carl Daniels, Birmingham Parker; lineman Kyle Gullahorn, Hueytown; defensive back, Remond Goode, Sheffield; wide receiver Joey Hamilton, Greenville; defensive back John S. Jackson, Homewood; wide receiver Daryl Johnson, Jasper Curry; tight end Javeris Johnson, Anniston; running back Moreo Jones, Brantley; running back Phillip Jones, East Brewton W.S. Neal; wide receiver Marcus Knight, Sylacauga B.B. Comer; defensive end Bryne Malone, Frisco City;

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linebacker Kevin Malone, Oxford; offensive lineman Andrew McGraw, Huntsville Butler; kicker Jamie Purser, Red Bay; tight end Marshanti Rich, Birmingham Woodlawn; running back Courtney Rose, Town Creek Hazlewood; wide receiver Antonio Rutledge, Selma; wide receiver Yeasive Ware, Eufaula; and defensive back Zack Winkler, Morris Mortimer Jordan.

And as the season progresses this list will change owing to performances, injuries, and

academics.

McCorkel was the only Alabama player named to Max Emfinger's Super 60 list of pre-season prospects. McCorkel, Thornton, Pitts, Smith, Seneca Knight and Brad Knight were listed in the *G&W Recruiting Report* among the nation's top 250 players.

Alabama is expected to look at a number of players in Mississippi, where the Tide historically has had good success. Mississippi has a good junior college football league, whereas Alabama does not have junior college football. Among the junior college players expected to get a look from Bama recruiters are:

John Avery, running back from Northwest Mississippi Junior College; Cletidus Hunt, defensive lineman from Northwest Mississippi Junior College; Grady Jackson, defensive lineman from Hines Junior College; Michael Myers, defensive end from Hines Junior College; and Terrence Samuel, wide receiver from Northwest Mississippi Junior College.

Signings of high school players begin February 7, 1996.

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Looking Ahead With Optimism

by Donald F. Staffo

Senior has worked hard to re-gain starting job as Bama's tight end

As a sophomore in 1993, Tony Johnson was the starting tight end for the Alabama football team. Getting the lion's share of playing time at the position, he caught 12 passes for 117 yards in the Crimson Tide's ground-oriented offense. However, last year Johnson found himself backing up Patrick Hape at tight end. Johnson's production was cut drastically, only two catches for 48 yards.

Last year Johnson did play in every game at tight end and he also saw duty on special teams (punt, kickoff return and placekick units), but his playing time on offense was way down. "Hape played about 70 per cent of the time and I played about 30 per cent," Johnson said. "That's one reason my receptions were down."

Johnson said, "Patrick is a crushing blocker. You can't take that away from him at all. Being a blocker in our scheme is very central to the outcome of the game. The amount of time I played got cut in half or better and my number of receptions was down considerably."

Perhaps surprisingly, Johnson is not disappointed. He's not looking back. The upcoming senior is looking ahead optimistically.

Johnson said, "I operate on a daily basis exercising self-control, patience, kindness, love, happiness and joy. There isn't any room in my life to exercise anger or fear. Last year was not a disappointment. It was a learning experience. It taught me exactly how much work it takes to accomplish what you want to accomplish as a football player, and how hard you have to work to be a contributing factor to the football team."

And Johnson feels he learned that lesson well, that he is dedicated to returning to the number one spot at tight end.

"As a football player, you always want to be on that starting line and putting in as much time as you can on the football field," he said. "I'm on a mission. This summer I'm working my butt off, lifting and running. I've always done that, but this time it is more intense and a whole lot more frequent.



Tony Johnson

"If I don't do that, I only hurt myself. I need to have a good senior year. I just want to get my foot in the door at the next level. I have that opportunity. The rest is up to me."

But Johnson wants to do more than just play, more than just start. He wants to be a leader. "I want to be the best player I can be for the team, on the field and off the field," he said. "I want to be a person on the team who my teammates can come to for encouragement and for strength. And off the field, the same thing."

"As a senior, the coaches and your teammates are looking at you to do the small things, the things younger guys don't understand or want to do. The younger guys look to you to get a point across, the things they should or shouldn't do, and why."

However, Johnson realizes that a part of leadership is performance, leading by example. To that end he knows he needs to play more and contribute more.

Going into fall drills, Johnson was listed co-number one on the depth chart. However, he is listed not with Hape, but

with sophomore Rod Rutledge. That's because Hape was suspended for the last half of spring training after being charged with driving while intoxicated. (Hape's case was to be adjudicated as a minor, and thus the legal results will not be made public. However, he is expected to rejoin the squad this fall.)

Johnson, 6-5, 250, acknowledges the skills of his competitors. Hape is the largest of the threesome at 6-4, 260. Johnson calls Rutledge, 6-5, 230, a well-rounded tight end who can block, catch and run fairly well.

But, said Johnson, "I'm ahead of them as a receiver and I'm the fastest (he runs a 4.7 40-yard dash), though Rod isn't far behind. Rod and I are about the same as blockers."

"I see the three of us going into fall practice pretty much equal. We'll all be in the mix."

Assistant Head Coach Woody McCorvey coaches Alabama's receivers, including the tight ends. He agrees that Johnson's strengths are as a receiver—running good routes, catching the ball, and then becoming a good runner after catching the football. "Tony can be a capable receiver in our passing game," McCorvey said. "For a big inside receiver, he has good quickness and speed and can get open on an inside linebacker. He also has good athletic ability."

However, for Johnson to utilize his best skills and get the most playing time, Bama must pass to the tight end more.

Johnson said, "I think the opportunities were there last year for the tight end to be involved in the passing game, and I think the opportunities will be there this year. Jay (Barker) had only one year with Coach Smith (Quarterbacks Coach and Offensive Coordinator Homer Smith), whereas Brian (Burgdorf) and Freddie (Kitchens) will have had two years to learn Coach Smith's passing game."

Last year the three tight ends combined caught only eight passes, Hape getting six



Tony Johnson has all the physical tools to be a very good tight end, particularly a pass-catching tight end. And the upcoming senior also has an excellent attitude about his potential and those of his teammates. Although his playing time was down last year, his improvement as a blocker should result in increased snaps this fall.

Barry Fikes Photo

and Johnson two. By contrast, in 1993 Johnson alone caught four passes in the Vanderbilt game.

McCorvey would like to get the tight end more involved in the passing game. "I hope we get the ball to the tight end more than we have," he said. "We always talk about it, and then we don't do it. It would be a plus to get the ball to him."

On those two occasions when Alabama got the football to Johnson last year it paid dividends. Both receptions came in the Georgia game, and both kept critical drives alive in that thrilling 29-28 come-from-behind Bama victory. A 22-yard reception led to a field goal just before the end of the first half, and a 26-yard catch and run set up the game-winning field goal. "Those were big plays," McCorvey said.

Johnson caught two screen passes in the A-Day Game, perhaps a sign that he will get his hands on the football more often in 1995. "If I can get us four or five yards here and there and a first down once in a while,

I'll take that," Johnson said. "If I can catch 100 balls, I want to catch 100 balls. If it's only 10, I want to catch 10."

Although Johnson is a tight end, he earned prep All-America and Mississippi Player of the Year honors as a wide receiver and tight end (as well as linebacker). Playing for Coach Clifton Davis II at North Panola, Johnson had 126 career receptions for 2,151 yards and 38 touchdowns. He once caught five touchdown passes in one game.

Those split end skills could come into occasional use for Alabama this year. Bama has a couple of schemes in which the tight end splits out, and in those schemes Johnson would be the tight end of choice for the Tide. Johnson said, "I hope we're not in those formations too often, because we usually use those in third and long situations, and that's not where we want to be."

However, McCorvey said there could be other situations in which Alabama might split Johnson out if the Tide thought it could get a mismatch.

More common is for Alabama to go to a three tight end set, the better to get short yardage on the ground. That means blocking. McCorvey said Johnson is an adequate blocker, "but he has to keep working at it to become a better blocker. That's the area in which he needs the most improvement."

Johnson agrees that blocking has been his weakest area. But, he said, "I've been working on it for four years, and now I can definitely get the job done."

He's looking forward to his senior season. "I'm expecting to be a much, much, much better football player this time around," he said. "I also want to be someone the entire team respects as a person." That part should be easy. Johnson, who is married, has been a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a good example in the classroom, where he is headed for a degree in accounting. In fact, if a professional football career isn't in his future, he plans to earn his master's degree with hopes of being an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Walk-Ons Have Big Shoe To Fill

by John Barnes

Stockton has a lead, but battle will continue this fall

It is well known that Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings places a great deal of emphasis on the kicking game. He subscribes to the theory that a sound kicking game can help neutralize weaknesses on the offensive or defensive side of the football.

With three-year starter Bryne Diehl now scheduled to punt on Sundays (he was drafted in the seventh round by the New York Giants), Stallings must find a replacement for the consistent Diehl.

The cupboard is not bare, however. Waiting in the wings are two walk-ons, both talented, each with his own beliefs on how to get the job done.

From the outset of spring practice, junior Hayden Stockton and redshirt freshman Daniel Pope have been locked in battle for the starting job. Although Stockton emerged from the A-Day game with a slight edge going into the fall, both agree that the position is far from settled.

When Alabama runs onto the field in Nashville for its season-opener with Vanderbilt on September 2, both Stockton and Pope believe the job as starting punter will be theirs. "Naturally, I hope we never have to punt in that game," said Pope. "But if we do, I hope I'm the one."

The pressure of following someone the caliber of Diehl, one of only a handful of punters ever to be selected in the National Football League draft, would seem to make things more difficult for the duo. However, both welcome the challenge and feel it will only serve to make them better. Comparisons to the All-Southeastern Conference performer are inevitable. Stallings said during spring practice, "I wish I had Bryne Diehl back," and added that the search for a punter meant the Tide would spend more time than usual on that phase of the game in spring training.

At first, Stockton was somewhat miffed at Stallings' comment, but soon realized it may well have been one of Stallings' subtle motivational ploys. "That probably helped me more than anything," said Stockton. "It

made me mad and caused me to work even harder. I want to make people forget about Bryne Diehl, and I mean that in the best possible sense. Bryne was as good a punter as I've seen and I learned a lot from watching him. Hopefully, when I get a little experience under my belt, I'll be just as effective."

Wishful thinking? Perhaps. But Stockton has shown flashes of talent that could make people say "Bryne who?" In Bama's spring A-Day contest, Stockton nailed a 58-yarder under a heavy rush, firmly establishing himself as the man to beat. "I feel like I had a real good spring," he said. "We were exposed to about every pressure situation they could throw at us, and I think I came through. Coach Stallings sees the kicking game as one-third of our attack. That's why it's important to be able to perform under pressure. There are so many great return men in this league, guys like Eddie Kennison at LSU. If you don't get a good one off, they'll hurt you."

A punter from the time he was a small child, Stockton's college plans were never in doubt. "I decided from the time I was little that I was going to Alabama," he said. "If they didn't offer me a scholarship, I was going anyway. My father played at Wichita State, but he was a great admirer of Coach Bryant and always wanted me to play at Alabama."

A native of Double Springs, the 6-0, 200-pound Stockton was a three-sport letterman at Winston County High School. He played quarterback, defensive back and kicked field goals, as well as being his team's punter. Not for a moment did he entertain the thought of spending his college years anywhere but Tuscaloosa.

Like most walk-ons, Stockton spent the early part of his collegiate career on the scout team, first working as a fullback and then exclusively as a punter. "When I first got here, I was totally in awe of the talent," said Stockton. "Guys like Antonio Langham and David Palmer, I just couldn't believe how good they were. Finally, I settled in and just tried to be patient. Hopefully, it'll pay off this season."

Punting the football is an art-form attempted by many, but mastered by few. Bryne Diehl turned it into a science, tailoring his kicks to various situations

depending on yardage, wind speed and direction, etc. He had the complete package.

Both Stockton and Pope do certain things well. Each is now able to get the ball away in two steps or less, an essential ingredient in avoiding a block. They also have certain flaws that only experience will correct. Their approach is somewhat different. Whereas Stockton has the stronger leg of the two, Pope's approach has more of an analytical nature.

"I'll have to admit that Hayden is a little bit stronger than I am," said Pope. "But I think I have a definite edge in technique. He had a better spring than I did and probably kicked a little better in the spring game, but I got off a couple of good ones myself. He's a little more experienced than I am because I never punted until I got to college."

Going into fall practice, Pope knows he has his work cut out for him. He knows he has nothing to lose by going out and doing everything he can to win the job. If not, he still has three years of eligibility remaining after this season. "I'm trying to be realistic about things," he said. "I believe I can do the job, but I also know that Coach Stallings is going to put the best one out there. I hope it's me but if not, I know my time will come."

Walking on at Alabama after a brief stint at Western Kentucky, the 6-0, 195-pound Alpharetta, Georgia, native had no illusions about his future. A starting linebacker and long snapper at Milton High School in Alpharetta, Pope had never punted a football in his life. He walked on at Western Kentucky, hoping to make it as a linebacker. However, the Hilltoppers were in need of a backup punter. Pope began punting and found he had a knack for it.

"When I got to Bowling Green, I knew right away that I didn't like it," said Pope. "I hung around long enough to learn a few things about punting. When I got back home I applied to five different schools and kept practicing while I was waiting to hear something. The only school I heard back from was Alabama. This is where I really wanted to come all along, so I packed up, headed to Tuscaloosa, enrolled in school and walked on. My goal was just to make the roster, which I did. Redshirt years aren't easy, but I worked hard on the scout team and tried to put myself in a position to battle for some playing time this year."

Pope's obvious lack of experience does not

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '95



Redshirt freshman Daniel Pope (left) and junior Hayden Stockton will resume their battle in fall drills. One of the two is expected to take over the punting duties handled so ably by Bryne Diehl the past three years. Diehl's success provides both pressure and motivation to Pope and Stockton.

Barry Fikes Photo

seem to deter him. He is confident he can do the job and believes he has a legitimate shot at overtaking Stockton for the starting slot. "If I didn't think I could win the job, I wouldn't be here," he said.

The relationship between Pope and Stockton is one of quiet competition. "I wouldn't say we were real close," said Stockton. "We get along, but when you're in direct competition with someone, you're not going to be best buddies. I have respect for him and for what he's trying to accomplish. I'm sure he feels the same."

"I think the competition is healthy, good for both of us," said Pope. "It can't help but make both of us better. I'm for Alabama first and foremost. If Hayden is the better punter, then I would want him to start. Anything can happen, though. Last year, Brian Burgdorf was ahead of Jay Barker at the beginning of fall practice and Jay won the job and had an outstanding year. You just never know."

The life of a punter is one of solitude.

Each practice is spent stretching and kicking, little else. Stallings and his assistants throw every pressure situation imaginable at them, watching for the smallest crack in their armor.

"What most people don't understand," said Stockton, "is that there is so much involved in a good punt. It's a lot more than just getting the ball away. You have to be very aware of your surroundings. The rush, the wind, the line of scrimmage, trajectory. But the most important thing is the drop. That determines everything and that's where practice and repetition pay off. If you give yourself a poor drop, it's going to be a bad punt, or even worse, it may get blocked. Things like kicking out of the back of the end zone and other pressure situations when everyone on the field and in the stands is looking to you for a good kick, there's no room for error. Things like that can determine the outcome of ball games."

Both punters view the legacy of Bryne Diehl as a blessing and a curse. "I learned so

much from watching him," said Pope. "The thing about Bryne is that he got the ball away so quick and rarely, if ever hit a truly bad ball. It really was inspiring. Watching that punt against Auburn fall dead inside the one really fired me up and made me want to work harder. The fact that he was drafted and is actually going to make money punting the football is really motivating. The thing about Bryne is that he made himself a good punter. We get a good bit of individual coaching as far as situations go, but it's really up to us to make ourselves better."

Whoever wins the job will no doubt have some big shoes to fill. Replacing an All-SEC performer who averaged over 40 yards per kick is a tall order. Bama's early-season schedule will certainly afford some time for growth, but punter is not exactly the type of position for on-the-job training. It's much too visible. Gene Stallings has the luxury of choosing between two capable people. The next three weeks of practice will tell all. May the best man win.

John Walters:

He Wants Last Year To Be Best

by Kirk McNair

Senior linebacker has
improved each year

On October 28 Alabama will host North Texas in a football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium. And it may be that the only family with Crimson Tide ties who will have an interest in the game is that of Bama linebacker John Walters. "That may be right," Walters said with a laugh. "My grandfather played at North Texas, so we probably will be the only family interested in that game. I never dreamed when I came to Alabama that in my senior year we would play North Texas. That's kind of crazy."

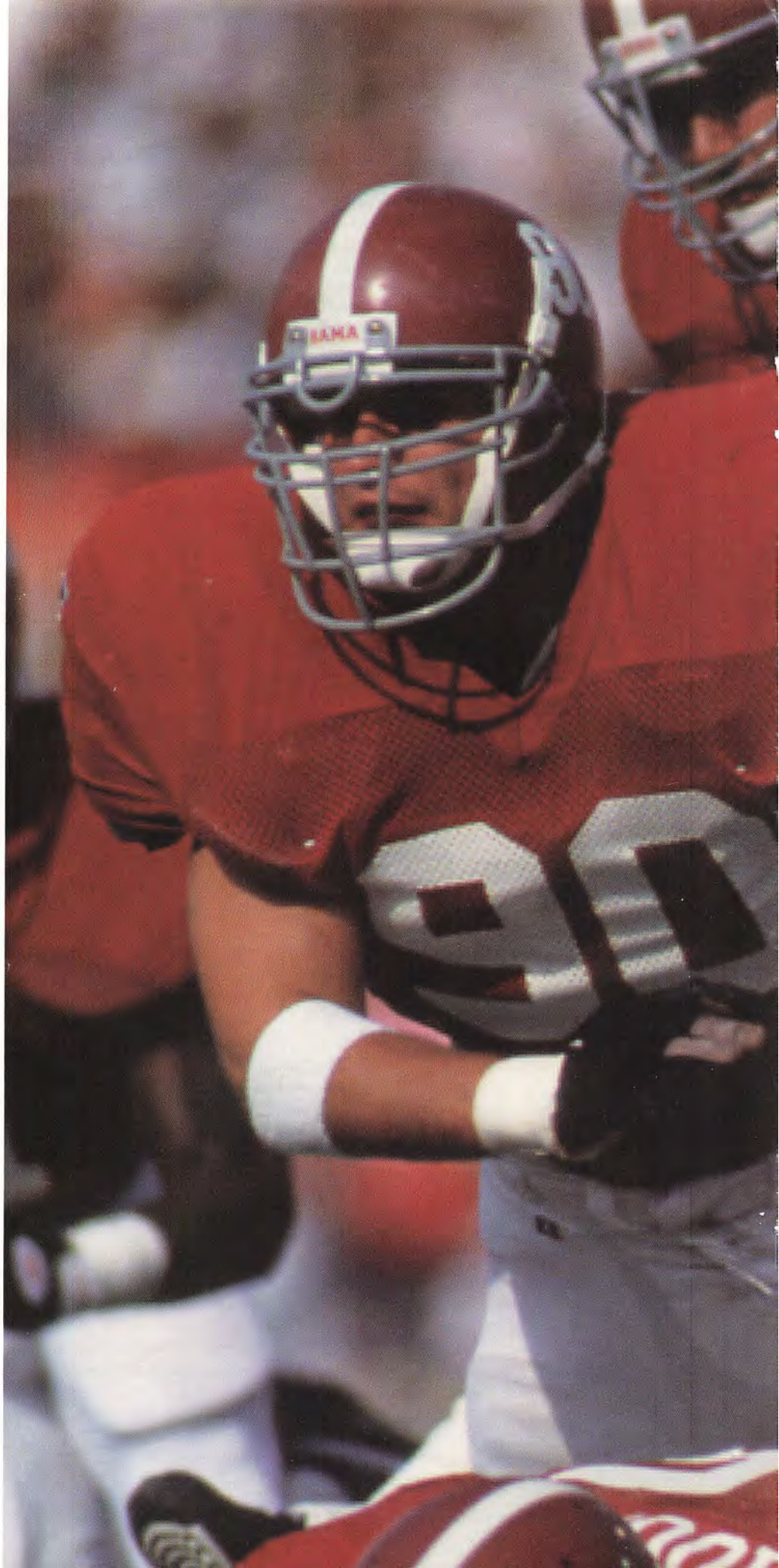
There's little doubt that Walters' parents, Sharon and James Walters, will miss that game. They haven't missed one in John's previous three seasons.

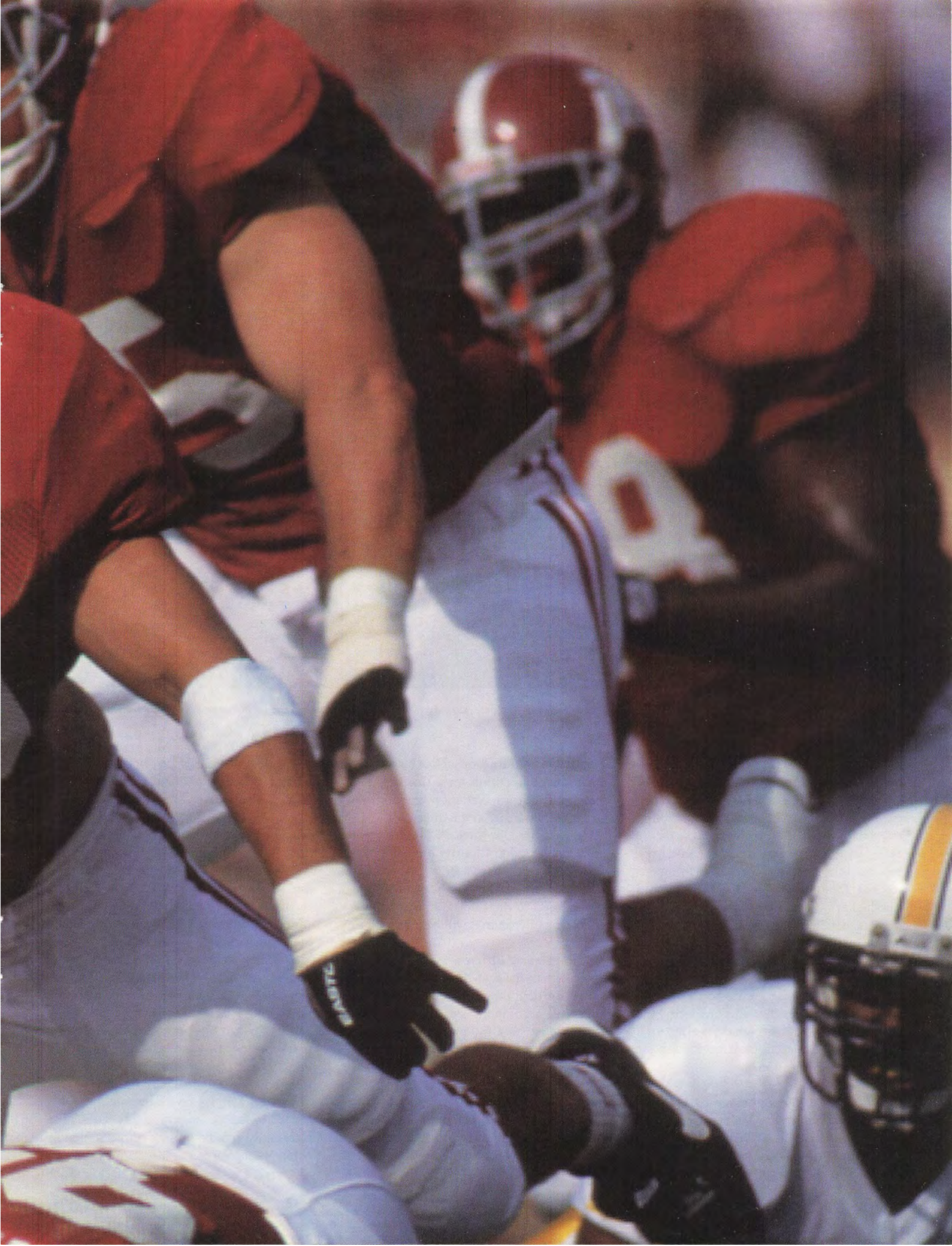
But while the North Texas game may hold some interest for the Walters family, there are many more important games for John Walters and his teammates. And the play of Walters, a 6-2, 240-pound middle linebacker, will be instrumental in Crimson Tide success in them this year.

Walters has been a regular for the past two years, a starter in more than half of Bama's games since spending time as a back-up linebacker and special teams regular as a true freshman in 1992. Now he's the clear number one man in the middle of the Alabama defense. However, Walters said he doesn't feel a difference as the projected starter. "I do feel I'm number one, and that's a good feeling, but since I've been here I've always tried to do the best I could, and that hasn't changed," Walters said. "I know there are guys waiting in the wings, and I know if I get hurt it's not the end of the world for the team."

In the four-three defense now being used by Alabama, senior linebacker John Walters (90) believes he can be a more effective player.

Barry Fikes Photo







One of John Walters' duties as Alabama's middle linebacker is to relay the defensive signals to his teammates on the front (linemen and linebackers). He said he likes that job because it helps keep him focused.

Barry Fikes Photo

The upcoming senior from Dallas recognizes a few responsibilities as a senior starter. "By being older, I need to be a leader, maybe more vocal," he said. He has another responsibility, one he really enjoys. Before each play, the defensive huddle receives signals from the sidelines, coaches' instructions for the front seven (ends, tackles and linebackers) and the secondary (cornerbacks and safeties). Walters relays that signal to his teammates and reminds them of the down and distance, and does it as quickly as possible so the defense will be set when the opposing offense comes to the line of scrimmage. "I like that responsibility, the one telling everyone what's going on," Walters said. "I also think it helps keep me focused on the situation."

When Walters came to Alabama prior to the 1992 season, Bama was basically a three-man front with four linebackers. Last year the Tide switched to the four-three, eliminating one

of the two middle linebacker spots. That made the competition for a linebacker job more stiff, but, as Walters pointed out, "It also made us deeper at the three spots."

He likes the four-three. "I think everyone likes it," he said. "It suits our personnel. Last year we may have been a little unsure of it because the coaches and players both had always been in the three-four. But I think a year of experience in it will help us a lot this year."

The primary difference for the middle linebacker in the four-three is that responsibilities on each play are more basic, Walters said. "Instead of more than one responsibility on a play, it's a little more simple and it frees me up to be a little more aggressive," he said. "In the three-four I had to hit the (offensive) guard on almost every play, then fight him while I tried to read where the play was going. Now, as long as we use some common sense about down and distance, we can just react and not worry about that guard."

The down and distance information is important. "If it's second and 12 and the quarterback drops back, it's not necessarily a pass," Walters explained. "The middle linebacker has to be aware of the draw and the fake draw."

While Walters is the projected starter at middle linebacker going into fall drills, he recognizes the competition behind him. "Tyrell (Buckner) and Fernando (Davis) both did very well in the spring," Walters said. "They are good guys and quality players. We get along great. It's been that way since I've been here. We have competition for starting jobs and for playing time. It may be that I'll start a game and then not be first team the next Monday at practice. You might think I'd blame the guy who's listed number one, but he's not the reason I've dropped down. It's my responsibility to win the job back. You might think it could be an unfriendly rivalry, but it's not; it's friendly competition. We're all for Alabama."

"Tyrell and Fernando both do a fine job

and they're going to play. That means we'll always have a fresh player in there."

The Bama linebacker believes the Crimson Tide may have another powerhouse this year. "I think we have a chance to be a great Alabama team," he said. "We've got the players and the attitude towards working to get better is there. The talent is as good as any since I've been here. When I came here as a freshman, I didn't know how our talent compared to other football teams, and that year we won a national championship. So now I think I know a little better."

"I hate to be over-confident, but I think we're going to be great."

Walters is aware that luck plays a part in football success. "A lot of people look at the negatives rather than the positives," he said. "I don't know how many times I've heard people say we were lucky to win. But the fact is, we did win. But I would say in the past three years that we've probably won 10 or 15 football games that could have gone the other way if one or two plays had been different. And a few we've lost probably could have been won if we'd made another few plays. I think it says something that we've won most of those close games."

Personally, Walters thinks he has made progress as a football player since coming to Alabama, although he adds, "I'm probably the wrong one to ask." He said, "I've tried to do the things the coaches have asked me to do. I've tried to get better. I know what they have taught me is good, and I think I've gotten better."

As a freshman on Bama's national championship team, Walters was one of only five true freshmen to see action. He was a backup to Derrick Oden at an inside linebacker spot and also played on special teams. He made 16 tackles and had one fumble recovery. In 1993 he opened the season as a starter and started half the Tide games and continued to play on special teams. He was Bama's 10th-leading tackler with 30 stops, including two behind the line of scrimmage, and recovered a fumble.

Last year he split time as the first teamer with Michael Rogers with Walters getting the starting nod in nine games and finished as Bama's third-leading tackler with 57 stops, including six behind the line of scrimmage. He also caused a fumble and broke up a pass. He was named the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his 15-tackle performance

against Ole Miss.

At the conclusion of spring practice, Head Coach Gene Stallings said, "John Walters has been a good football player for us for three years and should be even better as a senior."

Walters' position coach, Jeff Rouzie, said, "We're really pleased with John's progress as a player on the field and as a leader. He's improved in all areas. We look for a lot of leadership from him this year."

"John has worked hard in the off-season in the weightroom and in doing all the little things to make himself a better player."

Walters, like many of his Crimson Tide teammates, elected to spend the entire summer in Tuscaloosa. He worked out each day, usually with the other players. However, there were days when his summer job prevented him from working out with his fellow Tiders. On those days when he was unable to return from his job in time to work out at The University, he worked at a private gym in Birmingham.

Walters, a criminal justice major who will graduate next summer, worked with United States Customs on an internship this summer spending three days each week in Birmingham. There was no pay, "but I got (academic) credit," he said. More than that, "I really enjoyed it. It's interesting."

Walters worked with a Customs agent on such cases as drug smuggling and money laundering. The job included surveillance, interviewing, monitoring telephone calls, tracing financial records, following up on travel by suspects. "Pretty neat stuff," Walters said. "We worked one drug smuggling case where the guy was arrested in Louisiana with 137 pounds of marijuana. It was interesting work, something I'd like to do when I graduate."

That kind of career may have to wait on another career, the possibility of professional football. However, Walters said, "I've thought about it, but I'm not that excited about trying to play pro ball. First of all, I'll have to wait and see if that opportunity is there. I know the money is good, but that's a tough way to make a living. I'm going to plan on not doing it."

Walters said his time at Alabama "has flown by. I can remember showing up here as a freshman and now I'm a year away from moving on. It's kind of spooky how fast it goes. I'll miss it, because I'm very pleased with the decision I made to come here."

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Tiders Succeed In Classroom, Too

by Donna Fromme

Track and field stars honored as Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year



It is well known that The University of Alabama produces outstanding athletes in all sports. However, these men and women are more than athletes. They are also students. And a number of them are exceptional students. The University recognizes academic achievement when it has its annual Student-Athlete Academic Achievement Awards Reception each spring. The reception was sponsored by the Center for Athletic Student Services and the Student-Athlete Advisory Board and the Alabama Sports Network. Kevin Almond is director of the Academic Program for Intercollegiate Athletics.

Track and field produced the top two individuals for 1994-95 as Malin Ohlund, an All-America distance athlete, and Joakim Nilsson, an All-America javelin thrower, were named the 1994-95 Female and Male Scholar Athletes of the Year. Ohlund was also awarded a Southeastern Conference post-graduate scholarship, while Nilsson was awarded an NCAA post-graduate scholarship.

Team academic awards were also presented. Dick Spybey's men's golf team and Jim Tressler's women's tennis team received the athletics department's awards for teams with the highest overall grade point averages for the year. Five of Tressler's tennis players—Allison Eager, Monica Kervandjian, Hilde Otterman, Lori Smith, and Marouschka van Dijk—were Academic All-SEC. Otterman ranked among the nation's top 20 in singles throughout the season and Van Dijk was ranked among the top 40, Smith among the top 80. Van Dijk and Otterman were a nationally-ranked doubles team. Otterman made program history with her number 20 singles ranking, the highest

Malin Ohlund is not only a leader on the track, where she earned All-America as a distance runner for the Crimson Tide, but she is also a leader in the classroom. Ohlund was selected as the 1994-95 Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year at The University and earned a Southeastern Conference post-graduate scholarship.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '95

ever for the Tide women. The team was ranked as high as number 10 in the nation, also a program best.

Spybey's golf team produced three Academic All-SEC honorees in 1995: Joe Patton, John Franks and Dan Mutert. One other team member, Greg Letson, had been honored by the SEC in the past for his academic performance and was a second team All-SEC golfer in 1994.

Alabama produced 73 Academic All-SEC honorees last fall with every sport having at least one player named. To make the SEC's honor roll, an athlete must have maintained a 3.0 or above grade point average and must be a sophomore or above in academic standing.

Other individual honorees for the past year included Marlene Stevenson, a starter on the women's basketball team and an engineering major, who joined two-time SEC 400-meter champion Solomon Amagatcher as inaugural recipients of the Arthur Ashe Awards, present-

ed nationally through *Black Issues in Higher Education* to minority intercollegiate scholar-athletes. Winners of that award are required to maintain a 3.2 GPA or higher and excel in their sports.

The University recognizes the Senior Top Six Scholar-Athletes. Winners were Chasity Junkin (gymnastics), Nilsson (men's track and field), Ohlund (women's track and field), David Strassburg (men's swimming), Jill Tappen (women's swimming) and Jennifer Vieth (volleyball).

Vieth also received one of The University's highest honors in April when she was selected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Tide athletes have been part of the composition of many of The University's most prestigious organizations. Swimmer Amy DeVasher and volleyball player Erin Tenbrunsel joined basketball's Madonna Thompson in 31 Club, an honorary for the top 31 female students at Alabama. Marketing presented "Recognition of Excellence" awards to Ohlund and tennis players Van Dijk and Monica Kervandjian.

Black Scholar Awards were given to Pam Duncan (basketball), Herman Payne (track) and Atokie Boman (football). Jay Barker (football) received the National Alumni Association's 1995 "Outstanding Senior Award." Omicron Delta Kappa tapped new inductees DeVasher, Junkin, Tenbrunsel, Wade Kaiser (basketball), Kim Kelly (gymnastics), and Jennifer Piasky (soccer). DeVasher, Piasky and Tenbrunsel were also tapped for Mortar Board.

The Golden Key National Honor Society tapped Marc Hayden (tennis), Junkin and Vieth. Piasky won the W. Baker Flowers Memorial Endowed Accounting Scholarship.

Eleven Tide athletes made the President's List in the Fall of 1994, a feat that requires a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester. They were DeVasher, Nilsson, Vieth, Erin Braeuning (tennis), Cathy Cantor (track), Travis Crim (football), Ann-Sofie Joensson (swimming), Mike LeMaster (track), Julie Pelchar (golf), Melanie Ryer (volleyball) and Meredith Willard (gymnastics).

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It Was An Unbelievable 1995

by John Barnes

Expectations will be higher for Jim Wells' second Tide

What a difference a year can make. With their dream-of-a-season now in the books, Coach Jim Wells and the Alabama baseball team can savor a year in which the Tide confounded the experts with one dramatic win after another en route to a 42-23 record.

By any standard, it was an outstanding year. When compared with the Tide's fortunes in 1994, it is nothing short of phenomenal.

Even the stoic Wells, Bama's first-year head coach, can't help but smile when recalling the dramatic ninth-inning homers, the masterful pitching performances and the never-say-die attitude of a team no one expected to make any noise in the tough Southeastern Conference.

Bama's 42 wins stands as the schools third-highest win total, tying the 1991 squad.

Although cautiously optimistic entering the first SEC series against South Carolina, Wells had some cause for concern. Confident in his system and in the knowledge that it would eventually work, Wells also had to face the reality of an untested pitching staff and a team of questionable offensive prowess. However, his worst fears were never realized as the Tide pounded out 28 hits while scoring 19 runs in winning the three-game series against the Gamecocks.

From there, Bama never looked back, playing with an air of confidence that would eventually propel them to the SEC Western Division Tournament championship.

The first indication that this could indeed be a team of destiny came in the Tide's first SEC home series against the Florida Gators. Nationally ranked at the time, the Gators would be Bama's first real test of the season. Winning a tight 5-4 decision in the first game, the Bama bats came alive on Saturday, with the Tide posting a 16-4 win. On Sunday, the teams battled to a 4-4 deadlock through nine innings. Following some nifty relief work from Tim Young, big first baseman Chris Moller stepped to the plate in the bottom of the tenth and launched a towering solo home run to win the game and sweep the series.

The following week, it was Alabama who was nationally ranked, breaking into the *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball America* polls for the first time since 1991.

"I really think that series set the tone for the rest of the year," said Wells. "They were

a confident bunch of kids from then on. I'm really not sure if Florida was as good as everyone thought they were, but anytime you can sweep a series in this conference, it's going to give you a big shot of confidence."

The following weekend, Bama traveled to Knoxville to face eventual SEC champion and College World Series participant Tennessee. By taking two of three, Bama established itself as a vastly improved squad and one to be reckoned with over the latter two-thirds of the season.



Jim Wells

From there, Bama fell into a modest slump, losing two of three to both Mississippi State and Ole Miss.

However, all was right again the following weekend in Baton Rouge. Making his first trip to LSU's Alex Box Stadium as an SEC head coach, considered the toughest place to play in the conference, Wells would have to face his old boss and mentor, Skip Bertman. Ranked in the top five, the Tigers had their usual lethal combination of great pitching and a swing-for-the-fences mentality on offense. Bama responded brilliantly to the challenge. In the first game, junior pitcher Joel Colgrove was nearly flawless, hurling a one-hit shutout as Bama coasted to a 4-0 win. The Tide took Saturday's contest 7-6 and was in position to win Sunday but came up just short, losing 8-6.

At the beginning of the season, Wells' goal was to make the NCAA's 48-team field for a shot at the College World Series and the national championship. With one weekend left in the regular season, the only thing standing between the Tide and berth in the NCAA regionals was the number one-ranked Auburn Tigers. Breezing through the SEC while winning 50-plus games, the Tigers were by far the league's most talented team.

The first game, a Friday night contest at Montgomery's Patterson Field, was touted as Bama's most important of the year. In front of

"I think the Tennessee series is where we really turned some heads," said Wells. "To go into a hostile environment against the best team in the conference and win the series was big. I think everyone realized after that series that we really had a shot to accomplish some good things."

8,543 people, the largest crowd to ever see a college baseball game in the state, the Tide scored early and often, pounding out 18 hits and ultimately winning the game 10-5.

The final two games of the series were to be held at Auburn's Plainsman Park. Facing the SEC's top pitcher in Ryan Halla on Saturday, the issue was never in doubt as Bama could manage but one run and fell 3-1. Bama's 13-hit attack on Sunday gave Colgrove all he needed as Alabama took the game, the series and Auburn's number one ranking.

As satisfying as the season had been, for Tide players and fans, the best was yet to come.

Alabama's exploits at the Western Division Tournament in Starkville will go down in the annals of the school as one of the most improbable, fantastic series of events. Time and again, Bama came off the mat to do the seemingly impossible. Aside from a 5-2 slip against Arkansas, the Tide simply refused to lose. Bama posted four wins, three of them dramatic, come-from-behind victories in the ninth inning, including a furious five-run explosion in the bottom of the ninth to defeat LSU 9-8 for the tournament championship.

"What happened in Starkville is something I've never seen before and probably will never see again," said Wells. "Most people will go through a lifetime and never witness anything like that and it happened on three different occasions. There's really no explanation for something like that. We just had a bunch of hungry guys who never gave up. In that last game, we were down by four runs going into our last at-bat and end up winning the game. That's something these kids will remember for a long time and it's something that we can build for the future on."

Wells got his wish for an NCAA regional with Bama heading to Clemson, South Carolina as the number two seed in the East Region. After falling in the first game to one of the nation's top pitchers, Brian Link, and the Winthrop Eagles, Bama won its next three, setting up a game with top-seeded Clemson. The homestanding Tigers were just a little too strong for a weary Tide squad and took the game and the regional title 7-4.

Although the season ended on a losing note, the Tide's 1995 campaign exceeded the expectations of all, including Wells. "I thought we had a chance to be competitive," he said. "But you just never know. Except for Chris Eilers, we really had no experience on the mound and I really didn't know how well we would hit the ball. We just had some guys that really came through for us, people who had never done it before came through and had great years."

Alabama's 42-23 record included non-conference wins over Penn State, Illinois and Notre Dame, in addition to victories over

NCAA tournament participants South Alabama and Troy State. Bama's 18-11 SEC record was good enough for a second-place finish in the SEC West and third overall. Maybe the best indicator of Bama's dramatic improvement lies in the fact that in 1994 the Tide's record in one-run games was 4-15. In 1995, Bama improved its record in those contests to 13-5.

Bama finished the season ranked 14th in both the *Baseball America* and *Collegiate Baseball* polls.

During the regular season and in tournament play, the heroes for Alabama were many. None was more improbable than first baseman Chris Moller. Thrust into the lineup due to an early-season injury to Jason Jordan, the one-time pitcher emerged as the team's offensive stalwart, finishing with a lofty .405 average, the third highest in the school's history. He led the team with 87 hits, tied for the top spot with 44 RBI, and finished second in home runs with 10.

For his efforts, Moller was named SEC player of the week (March 27-April 2), was named to the Western Division All-Tournament team and earned a spot on the American Baseball Coaches Association All-South Region Team.

Although drafted by the Chicago Cubs in the 17th round, Moller has indicated that he plans to return for his senior season.

Alabama's renewed enthusiasm at the plate did not end with Moller. Designated hitter Jason Jordan finished with a .332 average, was second to Moller in hits with 80 and scored the memorable winning run on an LSU wild pitch to win the SEC West Tournament. He was one of four Crimson Tiders to be named to the NCAA East Region All-Tournament Team.

Catcher Dax Norris gave the Tide some much-needed offense from his position. He hit .283 and tied for third with 72 hits. In addition, he set the school record for at-bats in a season with 254. He was also named to the East Region All-Tournament Team.

Outfielders Rusty Loflin and Dustan Mohr, both newcomers, made their presence known in a big way. Loflin hit .298 and became known as Bama's "Mr. Clutch" down the stretch. He accounted for a large part of the team's offense in the West Division Tournament for which he was named Most Valuable Player. His efforts earned him SEC Player of the Week Honors and was also named *Collegiate Baseball* national player of the week.

True freshman Mohr not only hit .293, but led the team in homers with 12 and tied Moller with a team-high 44 runs batted in. He was named to the *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-America Team.

Even the middle infielders, shortstop Brett

Taft and second baseman Joe Caruso, not known for their offense, got in on the Bama hit parade.

The slick-fielding Taft finished with a .306 average and hit seven home runs, third best on the team. Even Caruso, a woeful hitter in 1994, scrapped his way to a .298 average and made the East Region All-Tournament team.

With the exception of Jordan, all return in 1996.

Although Bama's overall pitching was nothing to write home about, the Tide had its moments. The bottom line is, they got the job done.

Although starting only six games, mostly against non-conference competition, senior Neil Lamb finished with a team-best 7-1 record. He filled in for an injured Chris Eilers in the West Division Tournament and pitched very well, recording a record three wins in the tourney.

At times, junior righty Colgrove looked like a potential first-round draft choice. He had a team-high 18 starts, finishing with a record of 6-4 and an earned run average of 4.40. He was named *Collegiate Baseball* national player of the week for his stellar performance against LSU.

Senior Chris Eilers posted a 6-3 record in 14 starts and led the team in strikeouts with 86. He pitched brilliantly against Navy in the NCAA regional, hurling a three-hit shutout.

Bama's other starters, John Collins and Will Schleuss, combined for a 9-11 record.

Left-handed reliever Tim Young proved to be the stopper Wells had been looking for, recording seven saves while posting a 6-3 record with a microscopic 1.67 ERA.

Colgrove, Collins and Young all return for next season, but Wells will have to somehow replace the 17 wins posted by Eilers, Lamb and Schleuss.

Since the conclusion of the season in May, Wells has had little time to bask in the glory of his team's accomplishments. Hot on the recruiting trail and conducting summer youth camps, Wells spends his free time thinking about next season.

"This was a special bunch," said Wells. "I've been around some good teams and this group just never gave up. What they lacked in talent, they made up for in desire and intensity."

Wells will be forced to cope with some high expectations in 1996. Prior to last season, even the most optimistic pundits predicted Alabama would be no better than a .500 club. Wells and his team proved everyone wrong. The pressure, however, will be on for next season.

"Expectations are just something you have to deal with," said Wells. "Alabama is a school with a lot of tradition and expectations are naturally going to be higher following a good year. We still have some improving to do. I'd like to see us run the bases a little better and cut down on our strikeouts. Our goal will remain the same: to make an NCAA regional. That's what you play for."

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Tide Rolls Continue To Swell

by Donna Fromme

Coaches in almost all
Crimson Tide sports
add top new athletes

Alabama sports continued to add signees through the spring, although the hoped-for additional men's basketball signee has thus far not been forthcoming. After Bama lost Antonio McDyess to the National Basketball Association draft late in the spring, virtually after the recruiting process was over, Tide coaches made some effort to attract a player. There were reports on radio talk shows of a mystery junior college player in Arizona and there were rumors that Tide Head Coach David Hobbs' trip to Europe to conduct a basketball clinic might pay off with a signee from Europe. However, as of this writing Bama has no additional basketball signees. The signees from the spring period are 6-10, 300-pound inside player Thalamus McGhee of Trinity Valley Junior College in Texas, and 6-9, 200-pound freshman forward M.C. Mazique, a former Georgia and New York prep star. The guards are Brian Williams of Montgomery Jeff Davis and Anton Reese of Lithonia (Georgia).

While the Crimson Tide can hardly be expected to make up for the loss of four starters—McDyess, Jason Caffey, Jamal Faulkner and Artie Griffin—with this recruiting class, it is a very good one. A leading basketball recruiting publication, the *Recruiter's Handbook* of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, has rated Bama's class as 15th best in the nation. That's the good news. The bad news is that fellow Southeastern Conference members are also ranked high—Arkansas number one, Kentucky number three, South Carolina number four, Florida 17th, Tennessee 18th, LSU 21st and Mississippi State 22nd.

While a large number of signees were added in the early fall period and in the early spring and have been announced earlier, here is how late spring signings have gone in various sports:

Baseball

Head Coach Jim Wells has added four players in the spring period. They are:



Chip Zahn

Heath Davis, 6-0, 170, shortstop from Central Alabama Community College. The two-year letterman for Coach Larry Giangrosso was named to the 1994 state junior college all-tournament team. As a prep for Coach Bobby Howard at Columbus (Georgia) High School he was his team's most valuable player on back-to-back state championship teams.

Kevin Dees, 6-1, 185, is a catcher from Daphne, which was state runner-up in 6A this spring. In 1992 his team won the state title in 4A and in 1993 in 5A. The National Honor Society student played for Coach Lloyd Skoda.

Brad Lowell, 6-2, 190, is an outfielder from Theodore High School, where he hit .531 with eight home runs and 30 runs batted in as a senior. He hit .444 as a junior and also had six pitching victories. He played for Coach David Hughes.

Manny Torres is a right-handed pitcher from St. Joseph High School in Trumbull, Connecticut, who was listed as one of the nation's top 100 prospects by *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball America*. He was drafted by the Texas Rangers, but is not expected to sign professionally.

Women's Basketball

Rick Moody may have saved some of his best for last as he rounded out his recruiting year in May with the signing of the 1995 national Junior College Player of the Year, Shalonda Enis. Enis' signing puts bookends on the women's basketball team's big landings as it had signed Chicago's Dominique Canty in November. Canty went on this spring to become a *Parade* All-America.

Enis will come to Alabama from Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, also the home of her good friend Thalamus



Lauren Essig

McGhee, who signed with the Alabama men's team this spring. Enis spent the early part of her summer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, trying out and making the USA Basketball Jones Cup team which was to compete in August. Enis, a 6-1 post player, comes from nothing but a winning background when it comes to team play. During both her high school and junior college careers, her two teams combined lost a total of only six games. The two-time JUCO All-America, is a native of Celeste, Texas. She led her high school to a 109-3 record and Tyler to a 66-3 mark, including the 1994 national title. Trinity Valley finished second in 1995, led by Enis' 31.6 points and 10.0 rebounds a game. She was the NJCAA national tournament MVP. She came to Trinity Valley as the all-time leading scorer in Texas girls history and set the all-time scoring mark at Trinity Valley as well.

Enis originally signed out of high school with Stephen F. Austin but pulled out when Gary Blair announced he was leaving that school to take over the Arkansas program.

Alabama also added Amber Lacey, a 6-1 post player out of Howard County College in Big Spring, Texas. Lacey is a native of Altadena, California, and graduated in 1993 from Berkeley High School, the 1991-92 state champions.

Men's Golf

Dick Spybey's 1995 freshman class of golfers will include at least two new names. He's signed Chip Zahn out of Mandeville, Louisiana, and St. Paul's High School. St. Paul's won its regional championship three out of the four years Zahn was a team member and finished state runner-up his junior season. Zahn was medalist in the Northshore League championships his ju-



Theres Swedin



Keri Coy



Marwa Elwany



Amanda Ballinger



Baili Camino

nior year and was the runner-up this past season. He won regional championships his junior and senior seasons and finished seventh in the state his first three years of high school and then tied for first, losing out in the playoff, at the 1995 state championships. Zahn qualified for the U.S. Junior Amateur in the 15-year old division and was a member of the 1994 Louisiana Cup West team. His finishes in 1994 included placing 10th in the AJGA Club Corporation Championships in Virginia, 13th in the AJGA Freeport McMoran Classic and 13th in the 1994 Southern Junior Championships. He graduated with honors.

One other golfer, Allan MacDonald, reportedly has narrowed his choices down and Alabama remains a possibility. The native of Scotland has nine tournament titles under his belt.

Women's Golf

Betty Palmer signed four golfers, two Americans and two Swedes. The Americans include Rachael Short, a 5-8 all-state player out of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Riverdale High School. Short placed first in the 1994 high school state tournament and was the *Nashville Banner's* Player of the Year in 1994. Her career best on the golf course is a 66 shot on the Rutherford County Junior Course, and her personal golf highlights include playing one hole against PGA's Tom Kite and tying Kite with a birdie. Short is also an honor student.

From Dousman, Wisconsin, comes Lauren Essig who helped lead Kettle Morain High School to 1994 conference, regional and sectional championships. Essig is a relative newcomer to the sport, having taken it up competitively at the age of 14, but she's a first-team all conference and second team all-state selection and won the Watertown Invitational.

The Swedes include two announced in the

May issue of 'BAMA, Linda Sorensen and Theres Swedin.

Swimming & Diving

Credit the Tide men's tennis team for recruiting what could be one of the Tide's best female swimmers. Rania Elwani, a cousin of Alabama tennis player Mohamed Elwany, will swim for the Tide beginning this Fall. Elwani, a native of Cairo, Egypt, as is her cousin, placed 19th in the World Championships in 1994, second in the World Cup Series in 1995, and fifth in the World Cup Series in 1994. She's the African record-holder in the long course 100- and 200-meter freestyles and in the 50, 100, and 200 short course. Elwani placed first individually in her National High School Championships and led her team, the National Sporting Club, to a national championship. Her team also won two international titles.

Tide swim coach Chuck Horton also signed Metairie, Louisiana, native Keri Coy. Coy set a state record in winning the 100 breast championship in high school her junior year then repeated with a first place finish her senior year. She graduated from Chapelle High School and swam for the Y-Bolts and was a member of two state champion teams. Coy is an honor student.

Men's Tennis

Joey Rivé added three players in the Spring to join his 1995-96 men's tennis team, all three coming in with impressive resumes.

Among those is Rashid Hassan who comes to Alabama after playing at Tyler (Texas) Junior College where he was one of the top five ranked JUCO players. Hassan, a 5-8 native of Zimbabwe, carries with him a ranking that went as high as 13th in the world in singles and a top 10 world juniors doubles ranking. He led his high school team to four straight national championships. His play has also netted a gold medal at the All-

African Games in Cairo and he played Davis Cup tennis for Zimbabwe. In 1993, he won the German Open.

Ariel Rivero, a 6-2 player who has been attending high school in Texas while learning the trade of tennis at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch near Austin, will also join the Tide team. Rivero, a native of Argentina, graduated from New Braunfels High School and has won several singles and doubles titles during his juniors career.

Alabama also landed 6-2 Alin Taranga out of Boca Raton High School in Florida. Taranga's parents have moved around during his lifetime and currently reside in South Africa where he is ranked in the top 25 in the Under 16 and Under 18 divisions of junior tennis. His family also lived in Romania where Taranga was ranked third in the Under 14s. While at Boca Raton, Taranga's high school wins included defeating the number one ranked player in Florida.

Women's Tennis

Jim Tressler's additions to the women's tennis roster include three players, one of those a national champion who is the sister of Tide men's player Mohamed Elwany.

Marwa Elwany, a native of Cairo, Egypt, brings with her a three-time national champion banner, having won the national high school title in 1991, 1993 and 1994. She's been a member of the Egyptian national tennis team and was a semi-finalist in the African championships in 1991, 1992 and 1993. Her play also included a stint with Egypt's National Ladies' Team where she competed in the Federation Cup in Austria in 1993-94. She's been ranked as high as 150 in the world in singles and 190 in the world in doubles. Marwa and Mohamed have one other sibling, a sister, May, who is the number one player for the Cairo University team.

Amanda Ballinger, a Marietta, Georgia, player from Walton High School has also

signed. Ballinger was the 1992 state singles champion and runner-up in 1993-94. She won her region's singles title in 1994 and led her team to the regional championship that same year. In 1992, she was named to the Prince All-America team, and she's been an all-state player the past three seasons. Ballinger was the Georgia Tennis Association's Junior Player of the Year in 1994 and has played Junior Davis Cup and Wightman Cup. She was the Southern Girls 14 Closed Champion.

Baili Camino will also be new to the team, signing out of New Braunfels High School in Texas. She is one of two John Newcombe Tennis Academy proteges Alabama's teams will see in 1995-96 as the men's team signed a player from there as well.

Camino is a native of Fort Myers, Florida, and brings with her international playing experience. She's played in tournaments around the United States and South America. She

was ranked seventh in South America and was the number one girls' player at Newcombe's academy. She was also ranked 12th in Florida.

Track & Field

Four young men have signed scholarships with Doug Williamson's track and field team. Two of the four are distance athletes who'll run on David Troy's cross country team in the fall.

The distance athletes include Williamson's son, John, a Central High School graduate. The younger Williamson apparently has already taken note of his father's coaching tips as John is a two-time Alabama state champion in cross country and a two-time state champion in the two-mile run. He holds the state record in the two-mile (9:22.00). John led Central to a state team track title in 1995 and anchored the state champion 4x800 meter relay team.

Dean Fulmer joins the Alabama team from

LaSalle High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was a six-time all-state athlete. He was Ohio's state champion runner-up his senior year, leading LaSalle to the state cross country title in the process. Fulmer placed sixth nationally in the Footlocker Nationals.

Tuscaloosa and Central High School are also contributing Kenneth Fambro, a four-time state champion. Fambro holds the state titles in the 60-meter indoor hurdles, the 300-meter outdoor intermediate hurdles, the 110-meter high hurdles and the 400-meter dash. He also ran anchor on Central's 1,600-meter relay team.

Alabama has also signed Desmond Roache, a native of Scotland, who is a middle-distance athlete. Roache holds the Renfrew High School records in both the 800 meters and the 1,500 meters. He won the AAA under 20 indoor 1,500 meter championship in 1995 and was the 1991 and 1993 Scottish schools champion.

Former Tide Star Mike Davis Added To Basketball Coaching Staff

Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs now has a staff composed completely of his own selections. While technically Hobbs selected all of the assistants he has had since 1992-93, prior to last year all were hold-overs from Wimp Sanderson's staff. Following the 1993 season James Green left and was replaced by Thad Fitzpatrick. This year both an assistant's position and the position formerly known as "Restricted Earnings Assistant" opened up. Earlier it was announced that Hobbs had replaced Gregg Polinsky (who became head coach at Georgia Southern) with Bob Marlin from Pensacola Junior College. Then early this summer Lane Odom, who had held the third assistant's position, left for a top assistant coaching job at East Carolina.

This summer it was also determined that the third assistant coach in NCAA Division I men's basketball will no longer be restricted to a salary of only \$16,000 per year. With that restriction off, Hobbs had a wider range of applicants, which meant for a difficult decision. However, the Tide head coach was actually in a no lose situation, and when his selection was announced, it was a winner.

After spending the last five years as an assistant coach in the Continental Basketball Association (the professional basketball equivalent of Triple A in baseball), Mike Davis is returning to his alma mater.

Hobbs said, "Everything I have heard about Mike Davis is positive. When he played for Alabama, he represented himself and this University first class. The first thing everyone I asked about him said was how hard he played while he was here.

"As a coach, he puts as much into it as he did as a player. He demands that the players he coaches play in the same manner that he did."

The last five seasons the 34-year-old Davis has coached in the CBA under John Trelor. The first four years he was with the Wichita Falls Texans. The team moved to Chicago last year and became the Chicago Rockers.

This past season he was called into active playing duty by Trelor for the Rockers. After not playing for five years, he picked up right where he left off. Last season as a player/coach, he averaged 8.3 points, 3.3

rebounds and 2.6 assists. He played in 56 games, started 35 and was second on the team in minutes played, 31.5 per game. He shot 42.5 percent from the floor and 80 percent from the free throw line.

Last year, Mike finished fourth in the voting for the CBA's defensive player of the year.

In addition to his CBA coaching duties, Mike has spent two summers coaching a professional team in Venezuela during the CBA off season.

"Mike Davis will bring a lot to the basketball program at Alabama," Trelor said. "He's a guy who played there and he was Mr. Basketball in the state in high school, so he knows what it is like to grow up there.

"He can do a lot to help in the development process of the players. He played professionally and then in Europe and in the CBA. He has a great understanding of the game and he will be a great asset to the program.

"For us it is bittersweet. Over the last four seasons we have put 20 to 25 guys in the NBA and you always are happy for them, but hate to lose them. The feeling is the same in losing Mike. I am losing a great friend and a great assistant coach," Trelor said.

Davis played guard for the Tide from 1980-83, lettering all four years. As a senior in 1983, he was instrumental in helping Alabama knock off number one-ranked UCLA in Pauley Pavilion. In the closing seconds of the game, Davis sank two free throws as Alabama upset the Bruins, 70-67. He averaged in double figures his last three years and finished his career with 1,211 points, which currently ranks 23rd on the all-time Alabama scoring list.

He was drafted by the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks in the second round in 1983. He played 18 games with the Topeka Sizzlers of the CBA in 1988-89 and then played two years in Europe in Switzerland and Italy, where he was an all-star.

Davis is married to the former Tamilya Floyd of Wichita Falls, Texas. He has a 10-year old son, Mike, Jr.

"We have a lot of young guards on this team and Mike is strong in that area," Hobbs said. "He is a first class man and I believe he will do a great job for Alabama."

-Louise Ford

BAMA SCORECARD

Partial Qualifiers

The Southeastern Conference voted in 1992 to take no more partial qualifiers under the NCAA's Proposition 48 exceptions. However, at this year's SEC Spring Meeting, the league voted to allow its members to once again take partial qualifiers beginning with the 1996-97 seasons. The SEC presidents agreed each school could take eight partial qualifiers—two in football, one in men's basketball, one in any other men's sport, one for women's basketball and three for any other women's sports.

The partial qualifiers (those who are academically eligible for participation on the basis of either their overall grade point averages in the core courses or by passing a national standardized test) will be eligible for scholarships and to practice, but will not be eligible for game participation and will retain only three years of eligibility.

Atlanta Keeps Football Game

Although New Orleans and the Louisiana Superdome made an effort to get the Southeastern Conference Football Championship Game, the SEC has decided to stay in Atlanta and the GeorgiaDome through the 1998 season. The kickoff time has been changed from afternoon to 7:30 p.m. EST (6:30 central) and will again be televised by ABC.

SEC Game To Birmingham

Atlanta must not have wanted the Southeastern Conference Baseball Tournament. While the SEC has placed the SEC Championship Football Game and the SEC Basketball Tournament in Atlanta, the league has selected Birmingham's Hoover Met to host the 1996 SEC Baseball Tournament.

Alabama will not be defending its SEC West Division Tournament title next year because the league has done away with the two tournaments. In 1996 there will be only eight teams in the tournament, the top three finishers in each division plus the two remaining teams with the best SEC record. The top two teams in each division will have a first round bye while the other four teams play one-game elimination contests. The six remaining teams will then play a two-game elimination tournament for the championship.

The Draft Hurts

A difficulty in college baseball is the professional draft, which takes underclassmen and high school graduates as well as those

finishing college eligibility. And a player drafted has until the first day of fall classes to decide whether to go pro or to remain in or enter college.

Alabama has lost junior pitcher Will Schleuss (ironically, the only Tide pitcher with a losing record in 1995) to the Cincinnati Reds organization. Four signees—Jared Camp to Milwaukee, Allen Sanders to Kansas City, Brandon Black to the New York Mets, and Kevin Burns to Houston—opted for professional play.

Others who were drafted but who have not elected to go pro as of this writing are returning players Chris Moller and Dax Norris (both drafted by the Chicago Cubs) and signees Manny Torres (Texas) and Andy Phillips (Milwaukee).

Athletes Of The Year

The SEC named Tennessee baseballer Todd Helton and Kentucky gymnast Jenny Hansen its 1995 male and female Athletes of the Year. The Crimson Tide's nominees were football quarterback Jay Barker and two-time All-America basketball guard Niesa Johnson. Barker received more than 20 awards and honors in 1994 and finished fifth in Heisman Trophy balloting. Johnson led the Tide to four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and has been a member of the USA Basketball national teams the past four years.

Playing Professionally

It was national news when Alabama's Antonio McDyess, entering the National Basketball Association draft this year after only two seasons with the Crimson Tide, was the second player selected. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers, but then traded to Denver. He is expected to sign a multi-year and multi-million-dollar contract. Additionally, the Tide's Jason Caffey was the 20th player selected, taken in the first round by Chicago.

And one other Alabama senior basketball player has already signed a professional contract. Women's star Niesa Johnson is in Strausburg, France, where she has signed.

Johnson had been selected for the USA Basketball World University Games team, which will play in Japan in August, but she and at least four other members of that team had to withdraw to begin professional careers.

Signee Success

Incoming Alabama basketball players enjoyed success in this year's Alabama-Mississippi All-Star games played in Florence in early June. Men's signee Brian

Williams of Montgomery Jeff Davis scored 13 points, had four steals and two assists and was named Most Valuable Player as the Alabama boys defeated the Mississippi boys, 85-69. Bama women's signee LaTrish Jones of Huntsville Johnson scored the go-ahead basket with 31 seconds to play then hit two free throws with seven seconds remaining to lift the Alabama girls to a come-from-behind 80-77 win.

Basketball Prospects

A leading basketball recruiting publication, the *Recruiter's Handbook* of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, lists the top upcoming prospects for 1995-96 and there are two from the state of Alabama, including Tide signee Brian Williams' former teammate at Montgomery Jeff Davis, 6-7 Roderick Murray. The other upcoming prospect listed by the publication is 6-2 guard Julius Robinson of Selma. Alabama is also one of the schools listed with the number 3 prospect this year, 6-9 Lester Earl of Glen Oaks High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Early Commitment

The *Tuscaloosa News* reported in June that the Alabama women's basketball team has received a commitment from Nicole Carruth, a 5-7 guard from Sulligent. Carruth was a first team all-state selection as she averaged 28.9 points and 5.0 assists per game in leading Sulligent to a 28-4 record. She averaged 41 points per game in this year's Class 3A Final Four as Sulligent was state runner-up.

Owusu 19th

Andrew Owusu closed out his Crimson Tide track and field career with a second place finish in the long jump at the NCAA outdoor championships. Owusu scored all of Alabama's 11 team points, scoring eight in the long jump and three points for a sixth place finish in the triple jump. His 11 points gave Bama a 19th place finish.

The SEC champion set the Alabama record with a jump of 26-7, which qualified him for Ghana's national team, where he'll represent his home country in the 1996 Olympics.

Reason For Optimism

Alabama Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey has a reason to be optimistic about the 1995-96 season. After a disappointing 1994-95 season, the Tide finished on a high note, an unexpected fourth place finish in the SEC Championships. And

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/AUGUST '95

Spybey returns four of the five golfers who led Bama to that finish, including Chip Deason, who finished fourth individually, and Patrick Vadden, who was 14th.

Sophomore MVP

At this year's Alabama Gymnastics Awards Banquet, sophomore Stephanie Woods was named the Crimson Tide's most valuable performer. The Austin, Texas, native was a two-time All-America as she led Bama to the SEC Championship, its ninth straight NCAA Central Regional title, and finished second in the nation for the third consecutive year.

Alabama will host the NCAA Championships in 1996.

All Sports

Although the Southeastern Conference no longer recognizes all-sports champions, those who started monitoring that competition—newspapers—continue to do so. As it has for the past few years, Florida won the combined all sports title by finishing first in women's sports and second to Tennessee in men's sports. Alabama was seventh overall after finishing fifth in men's competition and fifth in women's competition. Ironically, Alabama did better nationally. Alabama's all-sports program as determined by the National Collegiate Athletics Directors Association was 15th in the nation, but fourth best among SEC schools.

Volleyball Candidate

Nina Foster, SEC Freshman of the Year for her play as a member of the Alabama volleyball team last year, is one of 14 players vying for 12 spots on the USA Volleyball World University Games team. The team, coached by Florida's Mary Wise, will be finalized in early August in time for World Games competition in Fukouka, Japan, August 24-September 1.

Final Rankings

The Alabama women's tennis team of Coach Jim Tressler finished the season ranked 20th in the nation, and three Tiders ranked among the top 100—Hilde Otterman at 40 (the highest final ranking ever for a Tide woman), Marouschka van Dijk at 62 and Lori Smith at 73.

Another Honor

John Hannah won just about every honor possible as one of the all-time finest football linemen, first at Alabama in the early 1970s, then with the Boston and New England Patriots of the National Football League. This summer The University's College of Commerce and Business Administration included Hannah (who

still lives in Boston) at its annual Reunion and Awards Dinner.

Olympic Training

The Belgian Olympic Team announced this summer it had chosen Tuscaloosa as its training site for the 1996 Olympics, to be held in Atlanta. The team of about 70 athletes and 40 staff members will use the facilities of The University.

Additionally, the Alabama Aquatic Center is the site for training for the United States water polo team.

Sloan Qualifies

Former Alabama Athletics Director Steve Sloan had quite a reputation as a golfer. Sloan, 50, is now the athletics director at Central Florida in Orlando, and he's still hitting the little white ball. In fact, Sloan qualified for this year's United States Senior Open at Bethesda, Maryland.

Publications Awards

Publications for four Bama athletics teams received national awards at the concluding ceremonies of the College Sports Information Directors of America convention in Denver this summer. The men's tennis press guide edited by Associate Sports Information Director Becky Hopf was voted third best in the nation, while the women's media guide edited by Hopf and Assistant Sports Information Director Rob Woodruff was fourth. The women's golf guide, produced by Hopf, was fifth, and the gymnastics guide, edited by Woodruff, was seventh.

Bryant Visitors

The Paul W. Bryant Museum welcomed its 250,000th visitor this summer when Keith Massey of Russellville was recognized as the milestone visitor. The museum opened in October, 1988, and preserves the history and tradition of Alabama

football. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Salaries Revealed

The Alabama Legislature became concerned this year as to whether college coaches should report outside income received as a result of those positions. The *Montgomery Advertiser* published the salaries and outside income of the head football and basketball coaches at Alabama and Auburn. Tide Head Football Coach Gene Stallings was reported to have a salary of \$126,300 and outside income of \$447,500 for a total income of \$573,800, while Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs' salary was reported as \$101,172 and his outside income at about \$175,000 and a total of \$276,635.

We're Number Five

The Collegiate Licensing Company, headed by former Alabama footballer Bill Battle, represents 145 colleges and universities in merchandising products. The company reported this year that Michigan generated the most revenue, followed by Florida State, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama. Eight of the top 20 producers were SEC schools.

Bryant Honor

The All-American Football Foundation, headed by former National Football Foundation Executive Director Jimmie McDowell, will have its Banquet of Champions August 19 at the Broadwater Beach Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. Among the awards to be presented are the Frank Leahy Coaching Award and former Tide Coach Paul Bryant (along with Johnny Vaught of Mississippi) will be honored.

Earlier this year the foundation presented a check for \$500 to The University for Jay Barker being named winner of the Earl (Red) Blaik Leadership Scholarship Award.

1995 Alabama Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Sept. 2	Vanderbilt	Nashville
Sept. 9	Southern Mississippi	Birmingham
Sept. 16	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa
Sept. 30	Georgia	Athens
Oct. 7	North Carolina State	Tuscaloosa
Oct. 14	Tennessee	Birmingham
Oct. 21	Mississippi	Oxford
Oct. 28	North Texas	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 4	LSU	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 11	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 18	Auburn	Auburn
	SEC Championship Game	
Dec. 2	TBA	Atlanta

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